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Summary of Events at Sheppard's Trial

Following is a general summary of events in the afternoon session of the trial of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard.

Assistant County Prosecutor John J. Mahon began by asking that all witnesses be exiled from the courtroom except while on the stand.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY WILLIAM J. CORRIGAN—I would like to have Dr. Stephen A. Sheppard remain. I may want to consult with him on medical matters.

JUDGE EDWARD BLYTHIN—I think the defendant is entitled to have one man of his choosing in the courtroom.

CORRIGAN—I choose Dr. Stephen Sheppard.

The defendant's brother started toward the front of the room.

MAHON—We certainly object to him sitting at the trial table.

JUDGE BLYTHIN—Oh, no, he can't do that.

CORRIGAN—He can at least sit in one of these extra chairs at the side, can't he?

MAHON—He ought to be back with the spectators if he's going to be here at all.

CORRIGAN—All right, let it go. Stay back there, Dr. Sheppard.

The first witness, Dr. Lester Adelson, deputy coroner, was called, and Mahon began questioning.

Describes Post-Mortem on Marilyn Sheppard

Dr. Adelson recited his professional background and listed medical associations and honorary societies of which he is a member.

Q—On the fourth day of July, did you do a post-mortem on Marilyn Sheppard?

A—I did.

Q—When did you see the body?

A—At 11:30 a. m. on July 4. I examined it at 12:30 p. m. the same day.

Q—Will you describe the body, please.

A—It was that of a white woman, about 30 years old, 67 inches long, weighing 125 pounds.

CORRIGAN—Are you reading? I object.

MAHON—Can you tell us these facts from memory?

ADELSON—It was four months ago. I'd rather not rely on my memory.

CORRIGAN—I don't object to Dr. Adelson looking at his report to refresh his memory, if he prepared the report himself, as long as he does not remember independent of the report.

ADELSON—I remember some things. Others I don't.

MAHON—Continue with the description.

A—I noted external evidence of injuries and indication of pregnancy.

Q—Was this indication borne out by the autopsy?

A—Yes. I found an undisturbed four-month pregnancy, a male fetus.

Q—You noted injuries?

Recalls 35 Injuries on Marilyn's Body

A—That is correct.

Q—Where?

A—On the head, face, shoulder and hands.

Q—How many injuries?

A—Thirty-five separate injuries were noted.

Q—Did you take photographs?

A—We did.

Q—What do you mean, "We"?

A—Someone else worked with me.

Q—Do you have those photographs with you?

A—Yes.

Q—Are they in color?

A—Yes.

Q—Is a screen needed?

A—Yes.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY FRED J. GARMONE—I object to the showing of these photographs on a screen. Dr. Adelson is fully capable of describing and giving a detailed explanation without exhibiting pictures which may have a prejudicial effect on the jury.

Judge Rules Pictures Admissible Evidence

JUDGE BLYTHIN—Dr. Adelson, in describing these injuries to laymen, which our jurors are, can you do a better job by using the pictures?

A—Yes. The combination of explanation and photographs will help to make clear the appearance of the body.

CORRIGAN—Did you say appearance? We know she was covered with blood. We don't want to see blood, we want to see wounds.

ADELSON—We wiped off the blood so the wounds can be seen.

Judge Blythin ruled the photographs admissible as evidence.

CORRIGAN—Before these are shown to the jury, could we see them? I don't want them magnified for my benefit, but I do want to see what he has.

The attorneys left the room

with Dr. Adelson and his case of photographs. Dr. Sam gestured to his brother to follow them, and Dr. Stephen Sheppard joined the group previewing the pictures.

When they returned a screen was set up and the first of seven color photographs was shown. Included were shots of the front of Mrs. Sheppard's face, the left side, the right profile, tooth fragments, the right hand, the left hand and the skull after the scalp had been removed.

Corrigan Objects to Each Picture

Each picture was shown over the objection of Corrigan, who said: "The pictures are exaggerated representations of her head. They are not an accurate scale representation."

Dr. Adelson pointed out each of the 35 injuries and described each one individually.

Typical of his descriptions were these:

"Injury No. 1 is a bruised, scraped tear on the front of the left forehead extending down to the underlying bone."

"Injury No. 3 is a gaping tear, the edges pulled apart, 1½ inches by ¾ of an inch, also down to the bone."

"No. 5 is a ragged laceration on the right front forehead just at the hairline, also bone deep."

"No. 18 is a crusted abrasion on the right eyelid."

"No. 20 is the nose, which upon manipulation gave a grating, crackling sensation indicating that it was broken."

"No. 25 is a ragged, contused laceration in which fragments of splintered bone were visible."

Defends Removal of Scalp in Autopsy

The defense objected when Dr. Adelson said it was a routine

part of an autopsy to remove the scalp to study the condition of the skull. Judge Blythin overruled the objection.

Dr. Adelson described the skull as fractured, the bone broken, with many fracture lines and bone fragments visible, and the separation of a seam between two portions of the skull.

The screen was removed, blinds were raised and lights turned back on in the courtroom and Mahon showed Dr. Adelson "state's exhibit No. 1."

Q—What is it?

CORRIGAN—I object.

JUDGE BLYTHIN—He can say what it is.

A—It is a black and white reproduction of the first picture that was thrown on the screen.

The defense objecting throughout, six of the seven photographs were introduced as evidence. (Dr. Adelson did not have a copy

of the tooth-fragment picture with him.)

Lists Causes of Marilyn's Death

MAHON—How many wounds were there above the eyes?

A—Fifteen.

Q—From your examination of Mrs. Sheppard, did you form an opinion as to the cause of her death?

A—Marilyn Sheppard came to her death as the result of multiple impacts on her head and face, skull fracture, separation of the frontal suture, hemorrhages and contusion or bruising of the brain.

Mahon completed his questioning of Dr. Adelson.

CORRIGAN—It is almost 4 p. m., and my examination of the witness will take some time. Can we wait until tomorrow?

JUDGE BLYTHIN—Couldn't you do part of it now?

CORRIGAN—I could, but I'd rather not divide it in two parts.

JUDGE BLYTHIN—Well, we

can adjourn now, but if we continue having these short sessions

we'll be here until doomsday.